

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 23, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra,

I write to request an update from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding the implementation of Executive Order 14019 which among other things, required federal agencies to consider ways to expand citizens' opportunities to register to vote and obtain information about the electoral process. Specifically, I write to seek an update on the status of whether voter registration options will be incorporated into Healthcare.gov during enrollment. Given the number of Americans who utilize Healthcare.gov, I strongly encourage HHS to incorporate such an option as soon as possible, especially in light of upcoming national elections.

As you know, on March 7th, 2021, President Biden signed EO 14019 (March 7th EO)¹ to promote access to voting, simultaneously acknowledging that there are many existing obstacles to exercising the right to vote for countless Americans which ultimately frustrate their right to participate in our democracy. The March 7th EO also required each agency to submit a strategic plan outlining the results of internal reviews examining ways the agency could facilitate additional voter registration and participation consistent with the law. On September 28, 2021, the White House released a "Fact Sheet" which detailed steps that agencies have taken, or plan to take, to address the requirements of the March 7th EO². Subsequently, on December 8, 2021, the White House released another "Fact Sheet" outlining additional specific actions, including a commitment to making it easier to register to vote by utilizing Healthcare.gov to connect voters to voter registration services and other voter services³.

As of today's date, it does not appear that a voter registration option has been incorporated in the Healthcare.gov enrollment process. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, but states around the country are increasingly making it more difficult for Americans to make their voices heard. Ensuring the American people are able to exercise this fundamental right must be a

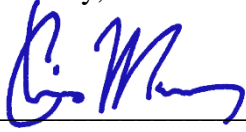
¹ Exec. Order No 14019, 86 C.F.R. 13623 (2021) [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting | The White House](#)

² White House. (2021, September 28). *FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Promotes Voter Participation with New Agency Steps*. The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/28/fact-sheet-biden-administration-promotes-voter-participation-with-new-agency-steps/>

³ White House. (2021, December 8). *FACT SHEET: The Biden-Harris Administration is Taking Action to Restore and Strengthen American Democracy*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/08/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administration-is-taking-action-to-restore-and-strengthen-american-democracy/>

priority, and, in service of that goal, we must offer voters as many opportunities as possible to register. As such, I write to inquire about the status of incorporating a voter registration option on Healthcare.gov.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator